

Whole amount reported,	286 92
" received,	842 48
" paid out,	728 67
" in treasury,	400 73

Is any have failed to receive receipt from money sent to N. Conference, to be applied on pledges, I would be pleased if they would notify me immediately.

ALICE E. AUGUSTINE.

R. No. 3, South Bend, Ind.

Our Young People

THAT WHICH COMES FIRST

Matt. 6: 33; Gen. 12: 7, 8; Matt. 8: 22.

Topic for Jan. 5.

HOME READINGS

Mon. Dec. 30, First fruits for God, Ex. 23: 14-19.
Tues. Dec. 31, First the blade, Mk. 4: 26-29.
Wed. Jan. 1, First the natural, 1 Cor. 15: 42-49.
Thur. Jan. 2, First their own selves, 2 Cor. 8: 1-7.
Fri. Jan. 3, First be persuaded, Lk. 14: 28-33.
Sat. Jan. 4, First see clearly, Matt. 7: 1-5.
Sun. Jan. 5, The topic.

A new year has come, a new page has been turned, a new start has been made. What will the year bring for us? Every year has its surprises, but every year after all is very much as we make it. We find what we seek, and the door at which we knock is opened unto us.

In order to make progress we must forget some things. We must forget past failures lest we brood over them and be discouraged. We must forget past successes lest we become self-satisfied with past attainment. We must forget the failures of others lest we stumble over them. "Forward" is the word unto us. The mark of the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus is our inspiration. Let us press toward it and this year step by step come nearer to it. In doing this we must not expect to take the last step first. There are preliminary battles before the final victory and reward. Let us consider some of the "first" things.

SCRIPTURE LIGHT

1 The first commandment, Matt. 22: 37, 38 (let all repeat it) Why is the first commandment so often the last to be obeyed?

If one keeps the first commandment will they probably keep all the rest?

Why can we not properly keep any of the other commandments while neglecting the first one?

2 The first thing to seek. Matt. 6: 33.

Are we to seek the kingdom first in point of time?

Are we continually to regard the kingdom as first in importance?

3 What is the first commandment with promise? Eph 6: 2.

4 Some primary doctrines of the gospel. Heb. 6: 1, 2.

Can a person be a Christian and omit these first doctrines of Christianity?

5 The first thing to give. 2 Cor. 8: 5.

6 The first thing to have in giving. 2 Cor. 8: 12.

Is there any reward for the person who gives unwillingly?

7 The first thing to do in prayer. Matt 5: 24.

Will God answer prayer as long as we have wilful sin in our lives?

8 The first thing to do in looking at others. Matt 7: 5.

How may we see the beam in our own eyes?

2 Tim. 3: 16.

9 The first place to go with the gospel. Mark 5: 18, 19.

How long are we to stay at home with the gospel?

10 A first condition of the return of our Lord. Mark 13: 10.

How can we help fulfill this condition?

FOR ANSWER IN THE MEETING

1 What is the first thing for a sinner to do tonight?

2 What is the first preparation for service?

3 What are some wrong things which some seek first?

4 Who will be first in the resurrection? 1 Thess. 4: 16; Rev. 20: 3-6.

5 What causes need our help first this year?

6 What are some good resolutions to make just now?

7 What are some first conditions of blessing? Mal. 3: 10.

Who will be the first to follow Jesus tonight?

C. F. YODER.

To the Y. P. S. C. E. of Pa.

Wishing to know how the other districts are responding to the call of their secretary for the college painting fund, I will send a report of what has been sent me. Up to date, only the four following Charges have responded. Allentown, \$2.20; Meyersdale, \$2.00; Berlin, Maple Grove, and Mountain, \$2.50; Philadelphia Junior, \$1.00.

Will not the other Societies of Pennsylvania please respond by the first of the year so we can feel we have done our part. Nearly all that have not sent any, sent none last year; therefore it is *your* duty to send us what you *can*. Let this be the second letter to such.

MARY M. BAUMAN.

Sec'y of Pa. Y. P. S. C. E.

Christian Life

My Father's Voice

I know not how, I know not when,
My Lord shall call me home.

I only know

That when my Father's voice I hear,

Or far, or near,

That then

My pent-up spirit joyously

Shall flee away

On pinions light as air,

To those bright realms

So dear, so fair,

Where my own Lord,

Seated upon his Father's throne,

Awaits the glorious day

When he shall greet

His own.

—Katharine Lampton Paxson.

RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE

D. C. MOOMAW.

The close of the year, the first of the 20th century, is at hand and it is beneficial at such times and seasons to look backward a moment and note the lessons that the expiring year affords. We, each in our own station, have added our quota to the aggregate of current history. Whether that record is good or bad it must bear our image and superscription. An honest examination of that record of course will show an amount and degree of natural depravity more or less, and for some of us the record is ineradicable. It need not be. Listen, "We have an advocate with the Father." Brethren, go to the Advocate at once and get the unsavory record blotted out. Listen, "He will blot out our transgressions."

What are we doing, what are we leaving undone, what motives animate us? Is the trend of our lives upward or downward? Are we going on to perfection, or standing

still, or going backward? Are we adding to the happiness of mankind, or adding to its misery? Is the world better for our influence, or worse? These are all practical, vital questions. What will the answer be? What are the facts, and have we reason to know them? I suppose they are not flattering to our estimate of ourselves or to God's estimate of us. Of course at this season we generally do a good deal of resolving, turning over new leaves, and many will write on the new about what they wrote on the old. This is not wisdom. He who does not profit by past mistakes, but goes on and repeats them, is very foolish in the sight of the angels. It is our bounden duty to continually strive to reach forth to the things that are before and thus make each passing year better than the preceding, and we exhort EVANGELIST readers to so strive lawfully that at least they may win the prize.

Retrospective of general church movements, it is pleasing to note the activity in all branches of the ministerial domain. City missions, revival efforts, congregational alertness, a general, universal, unanimous advancing of the lines of Zion's kingdom, an awakening to the obligations both of the officials and laity, of carrying out the great commission, are prominent and praiseworthy features that characterize our church at this closing period of the year. The deepening and widening of personal spiritual culture among our people, the evangelical character of our doctrines, the steadiness of our progress as a distinctive church organization, the validity of our claim to fraternal recognition on the part of other Christian organizations has attracted the special favorable attention of our beloved separated brethren and they are seeking among us a higher plane of spiritual development and activity. Let us, with primitive and apostolic meekness, welcome them to greener pastures and purer waters, to the satisfying of the hunger and thirst of their souls.

Casting our eyes over the wide world we note with great sadness and pain the awful spectacle of the leading Christian nation exterminating with hunger, fire, disease and the sword a peaceful nation of brother Christians, and we say in the bitterness of despair, "How long, oh Lord, shall the sword devour." Is there no voice of pity or protest among the churches of America? Has our church washed her hands of the blood and tears of murdered, starved men, women and children of the far East? Can not we speak for the babe of Bethlehem "Peace on earth and good will toward and among men!" Let all the Christians of America and Europe say to our rulers, these ruthless wars must cease. God grant our prayer.

Brethren let us work diligently while it is day. The past has been wrought gloriously and the future is bright with greater possibilities. May God's blessing be upon us all for 1902 to his eternal praise and the salvation of the world.